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Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

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Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

First session
New York, 10-14 January 2011

Draft report

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Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held its first session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 10 to 14 January 2011.

I. Organization of work

A. Organizational meeting

2. The organizational meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee was held on 17 December 2010 at United Nations Headquarters.

B. Election of officers

3. At its organizational meeting (1st plenary meeting), the Preparatory Committee elected its officers as follows:

Chair: Jarmo Viinanen (Finland)

Vice-Chairs: Abdulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh);
Gary Francis Quinlan (Australia);
Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic);
Aman Hassen Bame (Ethiopia);
Léo Mérorès (Haiti);
Lilla Makkay, Director, International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hungary);
Hardeep Singh Puri (India);
Brian G. Bowler (Malawi);
Andrej Logar (Slovenia)

4. The Committee decided that Turkey, host country to the Conference, and members of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries, namely Benin, Nepal, Solomon Islands and the Sudan would be fully associated with the work of the Bureau as ex officio members.

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

5. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted the agenda for its first substantive session, as follows:

1. Opening of the first session.
2. Preparations for the Conference: briefings and presentations.
3. General debate.
4. Consideration of the draft outcome document of the Conference.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee agreed to the programme of work as proposed in document A/CONF.219/IPC/1/Rev.1.

7. During the organizational meeting, the Chair of the Preparatory Committee invited Member States to contribute substantive inputs for the outcome of the Istanbul Conference.

D. Opening of the session

8. The first substantive session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was opened at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 January 2011, by Jarmo Viinanen (Finland), Chair of the Committee.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee elected Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin) Rapporteur.

10. At its 1st plenary meeting on 10 January, the Preparatory Committee heard briefings and presentations on preparations for the Conference to be held in Istanbul. The Secretary-General of the Conference, Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, presented to the Committee the summary of the outcomes of pre-conference events, among other things. Presentations were also made by Ertuğrul Apakan of Turkey, speaking in his capacity as the representative of the host country for the Conference; Anda Filip, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations, on the parliamentary track of the Conference and preparatory process; Arjun Karki, Chair of the Civil Society Organization Steering Committee, on the civil society track; and Gavin Power, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office, on the private sector track (see paras. _____).

11. At its 1st to 3rd plenary meetings, on 10 and 11 January, the Committee held a general debate on the substantive preparation for the Conference, including its outcome (see paras. _____).

12. In the course of the general debate, the Committee heard 60 statements: 48 from Member States and 12 from intergovernmental organizations. The statements were made by the representatives of Yemen (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Nepal (on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries), Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Australia (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Malawi, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Africa, the Sudan, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia.

13. On behalf of international agencies and civil society, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Organization for Migration, the Common Fund for Commodities, the International Labour Organization, the Enhanced Integrated Framework, the

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization.

14. From 12 to 14 January, the Committee held six informal meetings, during which it deliberated on the outcome of the Istanbul Conference. For its deliberations on that item, the Committee had before it a non-paper entitled "Compilation of contributions for the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

15. During informal meetings, the representative of Turkey briefed the Committee on practical arrangements and preparations being made by the host country. Thereafter, the Committee held structured discussions on the non-paper, based on the Bureau's proposed clusters, following the presentation by the Chair of the Group of Least Developed Countries on the primary document.

16. At the 4th (final) plenary meeting, on 14 January 2011, the Committee considered other matters, including follow-up consultations in the intersessional period, with a view to making further progress towards an outcome of the Istanbul Conference, based on the compilation (see annex ___) and other inputs.

E. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee

17. At the 4th plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report (A/CONF.219/IPC/____) and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary meeting.

II. Substantive preparation for the Conference

18. [To be inserted later]

III. Closing statements

XX. [To be inserted later]

Annexes

Attendance

[To be inserted later]